

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

RYAN R. RAMEY,
Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 1:14-cv-179

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Defendant.

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS**

This case is before the Court on the *pro se* Plaintiff's Application to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees (Docket No. 2), executed Consent to Collection of Fees form (Docket No. 9), and Prisoner Trust Account Report with attached ledger sheets (Docket No. 11).

28 U.S.C. § 1915 requires prisoners to pay the full \$350 filing fee when bringing a civil action *in forma pauperis* ("IFP"). 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). If, however, insufficient funds exist in the prisoner's account to pay the full filing fee at the time of filing, the court must assess, and, when funds exist, collect an initial filing fee of twenty percent (20%) of the greater of the average monthly deposits to the prisoner's account or the average monthly balance in the prisoner's account for the prior six month period. *Id.* Thereafter, the prisoner is required to make monthly payments of twenty percent (20%) of the preceding month's income. *Id.* The agency having custody of the prisoner must forward payments from the prisoner's account to the Clerk of Court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00 until the \$350 filing fee is paid in full. *Id.*

Because the Plaintiff had insufficient funds in his prison trust account to pay the full filing fee at the time this case was filed, Plaintiff's request to proceed without prepayment of fees (Docket No. 2) is **GRANTED**. However, Plaintiff's prisoner trust account report indicates that he had an account balance of \$100.00 on November 9, 2014, and average monthly deposits of \$220.97 during

the six months preceding the filing of his complaint. Accordingly, consistent with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. A copy of this Order shall be sent to the Trustee Officer of the institution having custody of the plaintiff along with a copy of the executed consent to collection of fees form. Pursuant to Plaintiff's executed consent to collection of fees form, the Trustee Officer shall forward to the Financial Deputy Clerk, in the form of a check or money order payable to "Clerk, U.S. District Court," P.O. Box 1518, Elkins, West Virginia 16241, an **initial partial filing fee of \$44.19**; and (b) automatically make monthly assessments upon the plaintiffs' trust account of 20% of the preceding month's income toward the filing fee¹ and shall forward such assessments to the Financial Deputy Clerk in the form of a check or money order at the above-mentioned address each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00, until the \$350 filing fee is paid in full. Payments shall be clearly marked with the name and number assigned to this case. When the filing fee is paid in full, the Financial Deputy Clerk shall file a notice so stating;

2. Plaintiff is advised that the failure to pay the initial filing fee within **twenty-eight (28) days** of the entry of this Order could result in the **dismissal of this action without prejudice**;

3. Upon the Financial Deputy Clerk's receipt of the initial partial filing fee, the Financial Deputy Clerk shall notify the Clerk of the appropriate district court that the initial partial filing fee has been paid. The Court will thereafter conduct an initial screening of the complaint pursuant to LR PL P 2;

4. Any recovery in this case will be subject to an applicable service of process fee assessed

¹If an inmate has been ordered to make PLRA payments in more than one action or appeal in the federal courts, the total amount collected for all causes cannot exceed 20 percent of the inmate's preceding monthly income or trust account balance, as calculated under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) & (2). See Torres v. O'Quinn, 612 F.3d 237, 241 (4th Cir. 2010).

by the U.S. Marshal;

5. Plaintiff shall immediately notify the Clerk upon his transfer or release and shall provide a new address if known. **Failure to notify the Court of a change of address may result in the dismissal of this case;**

6. In the event that the defendant is ordered to respond to the complaint, the United States Marshal Service will be Ordered to serve the complaint.

It is so **ORDERED**.

The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to the *pro se* Plaintiff by certified mail, return receipt requested, to his last known address as shown on the docket. The Clerk is further directed to mail copies of this Order to the Financial Deputy Clerk and the Trustee Clerk of the institution having custody of Plaintiff.

DATED: November 14, 2014

s/ *John S. Kaull*
JOHN S. KAULL
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE